In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 17 with the following:

2. Description of the Related Art

Conventionally, in order to handle problems of a distributed system, an agent, which is a program for monitoring computers and network devices (such as a router, a hub or the like) that are connected to a network, is provided to each device in the network. A management server collects configuration information from each agent and ~~display~~ displays a map based on the configuration information. The management server receives a problem event, such as a SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) trap, sent by the agent when a problem has occurred. Then, the management server blinks an icon indicating the configuration information corresponding to the device where the problem event occurred, so as to notify an administrator of the problem with that device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 with the following:

A small display window positioned at a lower left side is a sub-display window for indicating a dependent relationship between the devices to be managed. In this case, when the hub 12 indicated by a letter (a) and the machine 13 indicated by a letter (b) are clicked and selected by a user, the hub 12 and the machine 13 are displayed as a left icon and a right icon, respectively, in the sub-display window as indicated by dotted lines from the main display window. The user selects any one of the following settings for "INFLUENCE

ON THE LEFT DEVICE WHEN A PROBLEM OCCURS AT THE RIGHT DEVICE" at an

upper part of the sub-display window:

- CRITICAL

- LESS CRITICAL

- NO INFLUENCE

In this case, it is assumed that "NO INFLUENCE" is selected. Similarly, the user selects any

one of the following settings for "INFLUENCE ON THE ~~LEFT~~ RIGHT DEVICE WHEN A

PROBLEM OCCURS AT THE ~~RIGHT~~ LEFT DEVICE" at a lower part of the sub-display

window:

- CRITICAL

- LESS CRITICAL

- NO INFLUENCE

In this case, it is assumed that "CRITICAL" is selected. Information selected as shown in the

sub-display window is registered as a hub-machine instance (the relationship object 8) as

shown in FIG.10C described later. By this selection, an arrow (c) indicated by a solid line

from the hub 12 to the machine 13 is displayed in the main display window in FIG.2.